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AT MEETING Representative Jimmy Holley, Mayor Fred Moore, Councilman John Sharpless and Senator Crum Foshee look over Alabama 5-year highway plan.

Elba to Enterprise 4-laning included on state plans

The Alabama Legislature's Joint Highway Committee on Monday approved a 5-year highway improvement plan for the state. The final approval was without a dissent.

The final plan included plans for 4-lane work on Highway 84 from Elba to Enterprise, after con-

siderable efforts by Representative Jimmy Holley and Senator Crum Foshee.

Also attending the meeting that saw the Elba-Enterprise section added to the plan were Elba Mayor Fred Moore and Councilman John W. Sharpless.

The 5-year plan will cost in ex-

cess of \$2.4 million and Highway Director Royce King told the committee that using state and federal revenues over the next five years would fall \$862 million short of totally funding the original \$1.7 billion plan.

Widening of U.S. 84 from Dothan to Enterprise is included in the plan as separate projects.

W & E Board ponders regulation

The Elba Water & Electric Board is wrestling with a regulation that requires installation of a cross-connect control and backflow prevention program in the water system to prevent disease, toxic materials and other contamination from getting into the water system.

The concern of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) is that a sudden surge of usage in water, such as opening of a new subdivision, could cause the system to run water from a business or home and possibly cause harm to those who later ingest the bad water.

Board members discussed the requirement at length and expressed concern that the regulation would burden those who operate on a fixed income. The cost of the unit and installation is expected to be about \$50.00. The water user is responsible for the cost.

The Board is considering calling a meeting of all licensed plumbers and with them determining what the installation would cost the individual water users. The utility would then announce what the accepted maximum charge would be and urge the public to call their plumber.

Another method discussed was having water department crews do

all the work and add the charge to the utility bill over the next several months.

When the policy is approved, it is expected to immediately affect a list of known users of hazardous chemicals. Then the private homes will ultimately be afforded the check valves that prevent any backflow.

In other business the utility voted to increase the re-connect fee for water users who have been cut off for non-payment and their water meter has been removed from the ground.

The re-connect for these water customers will now be \$40, a policy adopted to better reflect the cost of actually re-installing the water meter once the old bill has been paid.

The electric department continues to show an increased profit in spite of a drop in usage. This is due to a drop in operating expenses of over \$30,000 for the year.

Water department sales and profits were up with sales going up \$6,000 and profits by \$8,000.

However the operation of the sewer pumps knocks all this for a loss with a \$7,000 increase in the cost of maintaining the pumping stations.

Rabid coon killed in Elba

Elba Police Chief Freddy Hanchey reported this week that a rabid coon had been killed in the Forest Lakes subdivision, located near Highland Drive.

The coon was killed at the home of Ricky Haywood and after being sent to a state lab was discovered to be rabid.

Chief Hanchey warned all citizens that have pets to update rabies vaccinations and to also report any animals acting strangely.

Brantley Apparel purchased by Montgomery manufacturing firm

Montgomery businessman Ben C. Collier, Chairman of the Board of The Collier Companies, joined with U.S. Representative William L. Hefley to announce this week the announcement of the acquisition of a new business and the creation of new jobs for citizens across south Alabama.

In making the announcement, it was revealed that Collier had recently completed negotiations and purchased Brantley Apparel, Inc., a commercial manufacturer of women's clothing items and other apparel specialties.

Former co-owners Brad Mullins and Barbara Johnson will continue in management roles at Brantley Apparel, while Rick L. Cipolla, chief executive officer of The Collier

Company, will serve as the company's president.

"I'm proud to be associated with Brantley Apparel and its established reputation for quality and competitively priced garments," stated Cipolla. "With a skilled workforce in place and available production capacity, there's definitely a bright future for the apparel business here in Brantley."

Local officials and dignitaries joined with Collier and Dickinson for the ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the event and Collier declared "It's a great pleasure to have Brantley Apparel become the newest Collier Company. There's every indication that business demands will create at least 100 additional jobs in this facility."

Elba is expecting company visitors' bus in New Brockton Wednesday morning, April 12, and tour with them from Elba to the Covington County line.

The tour will include Highway 84, both east and west; Smith Avenue to Hawkins-Williams Park; Boothe from Smith Avenue to Claxton; Troy Highway to Legion Field; Sunset and Highland to the

hospital and nursing home.

"The commission representatives will see our schools, industries, residential facilities and some of our residential area," said Boothe, "and we want to show them a clean city."

Boothe suggests the corner of Claxton and Sunset as a special place to adopt for clean-up.

Police department continues to be major topic at New Brockton council meeting

The New Brockton City Council met on Monday night, April 3, at City Hall and again discussed possible problems in the city's police department.

Councilman Layman Tindol told the mayor and council that patrolman Jerry Gilbert was released after a state agency questioned the legality of his employment, but reported that there was a vacancy in an up-

coming police academy set to begin on April 17 and recommended that Gilbert be re-employed effective April 16 and be sent to the academy.

Councilman Charles Cole voiced opposition to the hiring of any policeman because of what he called "a lack of adequate advertising and applications the council should review all applications and take part in inter-

views."

The council agreed to review the applications at a special meeting set for tonight (April 6); however, Cole wasn't satisfied and questioned why there were two stories floating around concerning Gilbert.

Cole stated the story was that the Gilbert had quit the force when it was his time to go to the academy, while another story was that an application had never been made for the former patrolman to any academy.

The council discussed the matter briefly and then repeated that it would review all applications at the special meeting.

Councilman Britt Lee questioned whether or not raises had been given to any policeman in the city and was told that the salaries of police and patrolmen were the same. The patrolman was hired he was not paid according to the set schedule.

It was stated that while the patrolman's salary was adjusted, no back pay was given and while there was a raise in pay, it was not an actual raise but a matter of correcting a mistake.

Lee and Cole asked why they were not informed of the mistake and subsequent change in pay, prompting Councilman Ralph Medley to answer "I knew about it and if I had any questions about the police department you should ask Layman (Tindol) and not bring it up at the meetings where it causes problems."

Lee responded "I waited for Layman to bring it up tonight when he was talking about the police, but when he did I mentioned it I had to ask the question."

Councilman Medley reported it was "time to start cleaning up" and urged all the citizens to help by cleaning up their own property.

Councilman Cole asked if there was an ordinance dealing with abandoned cars and was told the ordinance stated that all cars must have up to date tags and be in running condition.

The continuing problem concerning street lights was addressed when two residents requested that the city install a street light on a street light on a dead end street.

The residents reported they had the light installed and had paid the cost of the light, but it was too expensive to maintain and made the residents for the city to assume responsibility.

Medley stated that street lights on dead end streets should be maintained by the city and promised to check into the request.

Medley also stated that erosion was a great problem that street lights and reported that the light bills are being paid out of funds that also have to be used to repair the streets.

The subject of reported "missing funds" from the senior citizen's account was again brought up by Councilman Lee and Mayor Jim Driskell answered that "if you have any questions you need to talk to the city attorney."

In other action at Monday night's meeting, the council:

***approved the minutes of the previous meeting and the bills for payment.

***was told a recent audit conducted by ADECA was accepted;

***was informed that a "Drive Through" sponsored by the SEARP & DC would pass through New Brockton on April 14.

***agreed to meet to discuss the possibility of updating the city's business license ordinance;

***was told that the police cars were in need of painting and informed that a volunteer had offered to paint the cars at no cost to the city;

***heard Cole report that private donations had been received to aid with the expense of operating the city's summer recreation program;

***appropriated \$100 to help with the cost of equipment for the recreation program;

***and agreed to discuss the five proposals concerning the application of CDBG grants.

MISS ELBA PAGEANT
SATURDAY NIGHT
APRIL 8 7:00 P.M.
ELBA HIGH SCHOOL